

FINAL RESULTS OF CEREAL AND HAY HARVEST  
1957-58 Season

South Australia

Bulletin No. 12 of 1958.

Seasonal Conditions: The average rainfall over agricultural areas for the crop-growing period, April-November, was 8.72 inches compared with the mean of 12.54 inches for the previous 52 years, and was the lowest recorded since 1940. The rainfall was only 47.0% of the 18.55 inches recorded the previous season, and the average yields per acre of crops fell correspondingly - wheat to 51.3%, barley to 52.0% and oats to 41.1% of the 1956/57 figures.

Despite this, the following comparison of yields in 1957/58 with those of other seasons of low rainfall, shows that the harvest this season was relatively good.

| Season  | April - November<br>rainfall<br>(Agric. areas)<br>In. | Yields per acre |                 |               |
|---------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
|         |   | Wheat<br>Bush.  | Barley<br>Bush. | Oats<br>Bush. |
| 1914-15 | 6.77  | 1.41            | 6.75            | 2.62          |
| 1919-20 | 8.55  | 7.78            | 15.51           | 8.50          |
| 1940-41 | 8.13  | 6.97            | 10.14           | 3.87          |
| 1944-45 | 8.84  | 5.70            | 8.85            | 3.94          |
| 1957-58 | 8.72  | 11.20           | 14.48           | 8.01          |

It should be noted that rainfall figures shown in this bulletin include details for some drier areas where there is now less cropping than in former years, and therefore the averages in recent years may be somewhat understated. This matter is under review at present.

Yields were generally very close to the January estimates. There were 14,913,988 bushels of wheat (estimated 15,200,000); 17,551,669 bushels of barley (estimated 17,700,000); and 3,422,525 bushels of oats (estimated 3,100,000). The combined yield was 35,888,182 bushels (estimated 36,000,000), a fall of 51.3% from the record combined yield of 73,752,719 bushels in 1956/57.

For the second successive year, the yield of barley exceeded that of wheat.

NOTE:- The 1957-58 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1956-57 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain. In all cases, areas failed are included in total areas.

WHEAT:- The yield of 14,913,988 (31,431,547) bushels averaged 11.20 (21.85) bushels per acre from an area of 1,331,302 (1,438,289) acres. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,411,406 (1,480,676) acres. The average wheat yield of 11.20 bushels was considerably below the record of 21.97 bushels in 1952-53, and the lowest since 1946-47.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 800,487 acres of wheat produced 10,865,786 bushels averaging 13.57 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 530,815 acres with 4,048,202 bushels averaging 7.63 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 24.11 bushels on fallow land and 17.95 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 17,551,669 (34,002,876) bushels and the average per acre was 14.48 (27.83). 17,090,639 bushels were reported to be 2 row and 461,030 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 1,211,762 (1,221,737) and for all purposes 1,271,434 (1,248,648). The acreage for all purposes is the highest on record.

OATS:- The yield totalled 3,422,525 (8,318,296) bushels and the average per acre was 8.01 (19.47). The acreage for grain was 427,366 (427,192) acres and for all purposes 874,908 (843,481).

The areas for grain and for all purposes exceeded the 1956-57 records.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March, 1958. For seed - wheat 1,631,682, Barley 1,590,089 and Oats 1,037,041 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 846,381, Barley 1,544,603, Oats 2,948,944 bushels, and Hay and Chaff 276,846 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1957/58 it was reported that 1,389,539 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 615,524 bushels for feed.

RYE:- For 1957/58 there were 45,827 (52,777) acres under rye of which 38,955 (41,871) acres were for grain yielding 152,493 (251,793) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 188,376 (632,795) bushels from 37,168 (30,496) acres. The low yield was caused by the complete failure of a large proportion of the crop. 7,136 acres of field peas were fed off. Approximately 39,000 acres was intended to be sown for 1958/59.

HAY:- 290,926 (298,794) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 71,517 (36,618) and oaten 100,545 (107,725) acres. The total yield was 304,094 (453,270) tons, wheaten being 72,092 (60,914) and oaten 89,793 (160,520). Average tons per acre were 1.05 (1.52).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest total area in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1958-59, representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the autumn. The Department of Agriculture has advised that this season is particularly good, and it is likely that the acreage of barley and wheat sown will be somewhat higher than was intended when these particulars were collected. The area under oats is expected to be close to the figure shown, but it is likely that the proportion for grain will be higher than in recent years.

| Season  |       | Wheat     | Barley    | Oats    | Total     |
|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1930-31 | Acres | 4,507,213 | 267,369   | 519,300 | 5,293,882 |
| 1943-44 | "     | 1,675,778 | 304,382   | 558,065 | 2,538,225 |
| 1953-54 | "     | 1,603,914 | 1,144,397 | 700,325 | 3,448,636 |
| 1954-55 | "     | 1,766,539 | 1,057,818 | 767,581 | 3,591,938 |
| 1955-56 | "     | 1,678,298 | 1,067,661 | 841,936 | 3,587,895 |
| 1956-57 | "     | 1,480,676 | 1,248,648 | 843,481 | 3,572,805 |
| 1957-58 | "     | 1,411,406 | 1,271,434 | 874,908 | 3,557,748 |
| 1958-59 | "     | 1,455,978 | 1,387,962 | 954,878 | 3,798,818 |

Prior to 1952-53, the total area under wheat for all purposes exceeded the combined areas of barley and oats, but from 1952-53 onwards the combined barley and oats areas have exceeded that for wheat.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1957/58 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1957/58 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

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STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1957-58.

| Divisions     | Total<br>Cereals,<br>Peas, Hay &<br>Green Fodder<br>Acres | AREA FOR GRAIN |                 |               | Hay<br>Total<br>Acres | Green<br>Fodder<br>Acres |
|---------------|---|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
|               |   | Wheat<br>Acres | Barley<br>Acres | Oats<br>Acres |                       |                          |
| Central       | 832,710   | 201,812        | 376,190         | 57,821        | 112,904               | 59,748                   |
| Lower North   | 815,983   | 351,695        | 251,426         | 72,785        | 45,940                | 81,567                   |
| Upper North   | 140,013   | 90,645         | 24,334          | 13,394        | 5,576                 | 5,345                    |
| South Eastern | 144,511   | 15,901         | 22,645          | 31,905        | 57,325                | 16,303                   |
| Western       | 1,154,333   | 461,611        | 252,023         | 189,127       | 43,986                | 205,975                  |
| Murray Mallee | 674,437   | 209,638        | 285,144         | 62,334        | 25,125                | 55,570                   |
| Total 1957/58 | 3,761,987   | 1,331,302      | 1,211,762       | 427,366       | 230,926               | 424,508                  |
| Total 1956/57 | 3,825,494   | 1,438,289      | 1,221,737       | 427,192       | 298,794               | 367,115                  |
| Decrease      | 63,507  | 106,987        | 9,975           | -             | 7,868                 | -                        |
| Increase      | -   | -              | -               | 174           | -                     | 57,393                   |

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

| Division      | GRAIN      |       |            |       |           |       | HAY<br>(Total)<br>Tons |
|---------------|------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------------------|
|               | WHEAT      |       | BARLEY     |       | OATS      |       |                        |
|               | Bush.      | Aver. | Bush.      | Aver. | Bush.     | Aver. |                        |
| Central       | 2,957,145  | 14.65 | 7,146,301  | 19.00 | 659,218   | 11.40 | 129,112                |
| Lower North   | 5,780,829  | 18.44 | 3,657,640  | 14.77 | 712,032   | 9.72  | 38,240                 |
| Upper North   | 948,061    | 10.46 | 218,684    | 8.99  | 89,960    | 6.72  | 4,204                  |
| South Eastern | 329,102    | 20.70 | 578,825    | 25.56 | 781,828   | 24.50 | 87,998                 |
| Western       | 3,692,031  | 8.00  | 3,006,564  | 11.93 | 836,339   | 4.42  | 27,347                 |
| Murray Mallee | 1,206,829  | 5.76  | 2,903,585  | 10.18 | 342,288   | 5.49  | 17,186                 |
| Total 1957/58 | 14,913,988 | 11.20 | 17,551,669 | 14.48 | 3,422,525 | 8.01  | 304,094                |
| Total 1956/57 | 31,431,547 | 21.85 | 34,002,876 | 27.83 | 8,318,296 | 19.47 | 453,270                |
| Decrease      | 16,517,559 | 10.65 | 16,451,207 | 13.35 | 4,895,771 | 11.46 | 149,176                |

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

| Year        | WHEAT     |            |                      | Rainfall<br>Agric.<br>April-<br>Nov. | BARLEY     | OATS      |
|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|             | Area      | Yield      | Aver.<br>per<br>Acre |                                      |            |           |
|             | Acres     | Bush.      | Bush.                | Inches                               | Bush.      | Bush.     |
| 1952-53     | 1,543,762 | 33,918,689 | 21.97                | 15.19                                | 25,901,684 | 6,666,420 |
| 1953-54     | 1,528,377 | 30,409,231 | 19.90                | 12.62                                | 28,491,293 | 4,320,758 |
| 1954-55     | 1,689,103 | 31,462,737 | 18.63                | 10.85                                | 18,376,283 | 4,508,117 |
| 1955-56     | 1,609,029 | 28,891,524 | 17.96                | 15.77                                | 24,597,979 | 7,280,340 |
| 1956-57     | 1,438,289 | 31,431,547 | 21.85                | 18.55                                | 34,002,876 | 8,318,296 |
| Mean 5 yrs. | 1,561,712 | 31,222,746 | 19.99                | 14.60                                | 26,274,023 | 6,218,786 |
| 1957/58     | 1,331,302 | 14,913,988 | 11.20                | 8.72                                 | 17,551,669 | 3,422,525 |

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